Viewing Guide for Inequality for All

In the documentary Inequality for All, Robert Reich argues that increasing inequality in wealth and income in the United States is undermining the consumer economy and the middle class and destroying democracy.

1. What evidence does he offer of increasing inequality in wealth and income? How extreme is it? Is there a trend? When did it start?
2. According to Reich, why is this extreme inequality bad for a consumer economy? And what are the factors that have contributed to this increasing inequality?
3. Reich says that there was a time in U.S. society when there was less inequality and everyone benefited? When was this? What does he call it? What were its characteristics?
4. What does Reich call the current cycle? What are its characteristics? How has the middle class tried to cope?
5. According to Reich, extreme inequality does not just have negative consequences for the majority of the population economically, it also undermines U.S. democracy? How so?